



View from the Blackdown Hills

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Issue No 119 November 2014

Council bosses hoping to rely on 'volunteer' workers

As cutbacks bite council tax payers are to repair their own roads

by Jack Dixon



DALWOOD was the winner of Devon's best kept village in the small villages section. Chairman of East Devon District Council Graham Godbeer and vice chairman Christine Drew presented the certificate to village representative Wilf Slee.

MILLIONS of pounds worth of funding for highway maintenance is to be slashed from county council budgets this winter – and residents will be asked to pick up the extra work for restocking grit bins and a raft of other jobs.

Snow clearing, weed treatment and grass cutting services in the Blackdowns will all be cut back, as highways bosses look to save a total of £3.4 million to keep pace with the government's austerity measures.

And residents are being encouraged to make up the difference by volunteering as road wardens to ensure maintenance work is carried out.

The council says it is looking to recruit an "army" of community volunteers to clear weeds, scrub signs and even carry out small pothole and road surface repairs.

The scheme has already won the backing of the Devon Association of Local Councils, and individual authorities would nominate wardens to represent the town.

Councillor Stuart Hughes, the county council's cabinet member for highway management, said the authority has to find a "different approach" to tackling problems on the roads, with "massive pressure"

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My thanks to all those who contributed to this project

I thought some of your readers of View from the Blackdown Hills might be interested in the following news item.

The Blackdown Hills Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme (ESA) came to an end on 31 August after a twenty year life. This scheme was introduced in 1994 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to financially support farmers and landowners with their efforts to maintain and enhance the significant environmental value of this beautiful area of East Devon and South Somerset. This includes the network of hedges, unimproved grassland and hay meadows, traditional farm buildings and historic

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

monuments.

The Scheme proved to be popular and, I believe, achieved many of its objectives. Through your paper, I would like to thank all those farmers who participated in the Scheme and contributed to its success. I would also like to acknowledge the support and assistance of my colleagues and the many partner organisations and individuals who helped us

over the last twenty years, particularly the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership. I thoroughly enjoyed my work on this Project due in no small part to the enthusiasm and kindness generously offered by all involved.

In July, I organised a reunion of many of my former colleagues who had helped run the Scheme over its twenty year life. We enjoyed a meal at The Sidmouth Arms in Upottery and I hope that this may become an annual event to commemorate the ESA Scheme.

Richard Lambirth
(ESA Project Officer - retired)".



Support for hospice appeal

Volunteers needed to cover council tasks

FROM PAGE ONE

mounting on local government budgets.

He said: "Devon County Council's revenue budget is being reduced year on year, and we don't receive enough money to keep doing all of the routine work, or do some work as frequently, as we have been able to do in the past. Our budget is being spread extremely thinly across the network.

"We need to find a different approach by calling on the help of local communities and we are looking to respond positively to offers of help that we have received from local communities.

"Having reflected on some successful self-help schemes already completed, we have developed a scheme to enable our communities to work with us - we want to em-

power communities to take local action."

Elsewhere in Devon, town and parish councils have bought their own lawnmowers to cut grass verges and held 'tidy town' days where members of the community take part in a mass de-weeding exercise.

Residents in Harcombe, near Sidmouth, have even carried out road repairs themselves, as the county council looks to reduce its £758 million highways backlog.

Clr Hughes added: "We have already started to talk to town and parish councils about how we prioritise our spending.

"It is important that we are already having the conversation on how to work together more closely to deal with the challenge of delivering priority highway maintenance

work and meeting the local priorities of communities on the road network.

"The Road Wardens would provide a vital link between their community and local highways staff to co-ordinate their resources based on their local priorities."

Councillor Ken Browse, chairman of the Devon Association of Local Councils, added: "Our community leaders have got to look to their community. The community knows their own area and the issues that need to be dealt with.

"At the end of the day we are here for our communities. If parish and town councils have enthusiastic individuals, we are always up for the job. That will always be the case."

BACK IN BUSINESS: The Exeter and East Devon Business Club has helped to raise a total of £1,500 towards Hospiscare's East Devon Day Hospice Appeal, after members heard an impassioned plea from charity leaders.

During a talk at one of the club's lunch events earlier this year, chief fundraiser Sarah Smith explained how the charity was looking to local businesses to help cover the cost of fitting out the building's new kitchen.

And members took up the challenge to collect cash from a range of sponsored events, including Jo Strachan (pictured) who raised more than £800 by completing a skydive jump.

The Deer Park Hotel's Mark Godfrey (left) also chipped in by donating all proceeds from the club's September lunch event, and handed over a cheque to Hospiscare's John Arnold (right) recently.



View from the Blackdown Hills

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New community wildlife project

BLACKDOWN Hills Natural Futures, a major new community wildlife project, has been awarded £246,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The announcement means that the project, which is managed by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team, can go ahead and will run for the next three years.

New members of staff will help 15 local communi-

ties turn their ideas for wildlife projects into reality. The project will also support nine recent ecology or land management graduates to gain essential field skills and survey dozens of important wildlife sites across the AONB.

If you have an area of land which you think may be valuable for wildlife and you would like a free survey carried out, we want to hear from you. Please also get

in touch if you have an idea for a project in your village, for example a community orchard, wildlife walk or nature area. If you know a recently qualified person wanting to starting a career in ecology or similar field, please also encourage them to let us know.

Email blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk or call 01823 680681 to register your interest, or to find out more about Blackdown Hills Natural Futures.

Chairman presents awards to best kept village winners

WINNERS of the county and district best kept village competition received their awards from the Chairman of East Devon District Council, Councillor Graham Godbeer.

Best Kept Village is a long-established county-wide competition run by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and sponsored by Mole Valley Farmers.

Villages are assessed by an independent panel of judges who mark competitors against country-wide criteria.

When the results become available, the Devon administrator of Best Kept Village tells the district council which villages have won the various categories in the county, and also provides scores for the competing villages within East Devon.

From those scores, the district council works out which villages within East Devon should be awarded cups as winners of the district competition within the Large and Small Village Categories and which villages are runners-up.

The East Devon element of the competition is a way of acknowledging the efforts of villages within the district. The cups – Baker and Glanvill – are engraved annually. The winners and runners-up of each category also received a framed certificate signed by the Chairman.

A council spokesman said: "East Devon District Council is always keen to support competitions of this nature, which celebrate the great community spirit within the district's villages".

Below is a list of the successful East Devon villages in the county and district competitions. Photos of village delegates receiving their awards are available.



REPRESENTATIVES from Kilmington, Sally Huscroft and Michael Collier collect their certificate for the Best Kept Large Village from East Devon District Council chairman Graham Godbeer and vice chairman Christine Drew.

Devon Winners:

Large village (past winner) Kilmington
Runner-up Musbury
Small village (past winner) Dalwood
Runner-up Offwell
New entry runner up Lympstone

East Devon Winners:

Large village – Baker Cup – East Budleigh
Runner-up Axmouth
Small village – Glanvill Cup – Talaton
Runner-up Hawkchurch

Remembrance in Hemyock and Clayhidon

In Hemyock a Remembrance Parade, which all are welcome to be a part of, will leave the Parish Hall at 10am on Remembrance Sunday (November 9th).

The parade will march to St Mary's Parish Church for the service at 10.15am.

On Tuesday, November 11th there will be a 10 minute Act of Remembrance held at the War Memorial alongside the church at 10.50am.

In Clayhidon there will be a Service of Remembrance in St Andrew's Church at 10am on Sunday November 9th. The congregation will come out to stand in the Church Drive facing the War Memorial to join any others who have already gathered for the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

The names of all the men from Clayhidon who were killed in the First and Second World Wars will be read out.



Grants still available for homes and businesses affected by flooding

SOUTH Somerset home owners and businesses directly affected by flooding last winter can still apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to help reduce the risk of flooding.

The Government-funded Repair and Renew Grant scheme can provide grants for additional flood resilience or resistance measures for homes and businesses that have been hit by the floods, over and above repairs that would normally be covered by insurance.

Affected residents need to apply to their local district council to bid for the grant.

Any home or business damaged by the floods between December 1st 2013 and March 31st 2014 could be eligible for a grant.

There are number of criteria to satisfy – for example the interior of the property must have been damaged, applicants must not have received or applied for other sources of public or insurance funding to carry out the same work.

Even if you have already fitted new measures following last winter's flooding you can still apply for the grant retrospectively to cover the cost.



RIC PALLISTER: Contact the council at the earliest opportunity

Environment Minister Dan Rogerson MP said: "By making some small changes to your house you will reduce the chance of your house flooding in the future. Please do not miss this opportunity to protect your property."

Ric Pallister, Leader of South Somerset District Council and Chairman of the Health and Housing Flood Recovery Group for Somerset said: "It is vital that anyone who believes they may be eligible contacts the council at the earliest opportunity as the work must be completed and the grant drawn down before 31st March 2015."

"The Government have advised us that they do not want households to jump through lots of bureaucratic hoops and our officers will do everything they can to help property owners access this financial help."

Anyone wishing to find out more or to start an application should contact Paul Rees at South Somerset District Council: on 01935 462507

Information is also available online at: www.south-somerset.gov.uk



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PUPILS at Buckland St Mary Primary School dressed at character from Roald Dahl stories and donated money to Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity which helps makes life better for seriously ill children in the UK.

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Haunted by the ghosts of children and hanged rebels

THE ghosts of hanged rebel soldiers and "Spunkies" or "Will-o'-the Wisps" (unbaptized

children) were widely believed to haunt the wastes and moors of Clayhidon and other remote parts of the Blackdown Hills, according to an academic study.

Stories of lost souls wandering the hills were common and bandits and thieves traded on local superstition and fear to move through the landscape unchallenged, says Lucy Ryder.

She writes about the "haunted" Hemyock road between Broad Street in Clayhidon and Churchinford in a 227-

page thesis, *Change and Continuity: a Study in the Historic Landscape of Devon*, submitted to the University of Exeter and available online.

This road runs along the former common of Ridgewood at Bolham Water, which was "the haunting grounds of ghosts, demons and other spirits, and much of the supernatural encounters occurred either at night or as the mist comes in".

A report of the Western Circuit in 1690 described the "bewitching" of Jacob Seley en route to

Taunton after an evening at a public house. Mr. Seley told the judge that he had been set upon by the ghosts of "Monmouth's Men... hang'd on the sign post", and that the ghosts went on to steal his horse.

It was thought he had been told the stories of hauntings by locals in the pub over dinner (and no doubt a few drinks), and that the thieves had followed him from the inn to trade in on his fear.

"It is known that many men from the local communities joined the Mon-

mouth rebel army in 1685 and camped on Luppitt Common," writes Ms Ryder. "Local stories state that many of these men were executed on Black Down Common which lies on the border with Hemyock in Uffculme. Thus it was thought that these men still wandered the commons trying to get home."

● Ready Lucy Ryder's thesis in full on the Blackdown Hills AONB website: www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk



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Showstoppers put food in the bank



PUPILS from Offwell Primary School took to the stage recently to put their skills to the test in a charity talent show. The event, organised by the school council, featured entertaining acts ranging from gymnastics and belly-dancing to magic tricks and singing. The winner of the contest, Erin (centre), is pictured with school council members Emilene and Ben, who donated a total of £79 to the King's Centre Food Bank in Honiton, along with goods from their recent Harvest Festival.

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Blackdowns clubs and societies

BLACKDOWN HILLS GARDENING CLUB

THE Blackdown Hills Gardening Club met on Wednesday, October 15th at Churchinford Hall.

Graham Salmon welcomed members, visitors and our speaker, John-Michael Kennaway, from Escot, Ottery St Mary.

Mr Kennaway presented 'Water in the Garden' showing slides and giving information on all types and sizes of ponds in various situations, even telling of a moat surrounding a house on Exmoor. The owner persuaded his wife to go on a lengthy cruise and on her return she found a watery surround to her home. Members wondered what her reaction was!

There is a great deal to consider when siting a water feature or the upkeep needed to maintain it. Mr Kennaway and his team not only build new

ponds they also sort out problems too.

Following refreshments and raffle members looked ahead to the annual social evening on Wednesday, November 19th with a bring and share supper and a quiz with prizes. This begins an hour earlier than usual at 6.30pm and entry is £3.50 to include a glass of wine. Please bring partners and friends along.

There is no meeting in December. However in the new year on Wednesday, January 21st at 7.30pm there will be a presentation on 'All Gardens Great and Small' by Rebecca Pow, professional journalist and broadcaster followed by our AGM.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL W.I.

THE audience was dressed in warm, winter clothes, in marked contrast to the glorious array of costumes from all round the world, brought by Liz Cummings, the speaker at Sampford Arundel WI's October meeting.

She also produced dolls, a 'hat' used to balance pots on the head and – most movingly – a burka under which her mother had hidden, and thus probably saved the lives of Liz's brothers during the unrest at the time of the partition of India.

Liz also showed that clothes could be made from virtually anything – including grass skirts made of plastic.

Members then had great fun trying on the costumes, bringing a bit of Eastern glamour to a cold autumnal English evening.

The next activity was preparation for the group event – portrait 'photo needed, please!

Members discussed skittles, scrabble, book-group (maybe another needed as well) lunch and

painting day, the county annual meeting, with Michael Portillo, craft, and a laugh day.

Members were reminded about the group carol festival (mince pies, please,) and Christmas lunch (small gift, please) already booked, plus the county carol festival.

This is a great time to join the W.I. please phone Kay on 01823 666537.



Bishopswood Ladies

ON Thursday, October 2nd, 12 members of the Bishopswood Ladies went to Street for the day.

The first port of call was The Grange, a grand house which was originally a farm and tithe barn belonging to Glastonbury Abbey.

This building is now owned by The Alfred Gillett Trust, a charity set up to protect the historic collection of various papers, brochures, drawings, machinery and shoes from nearly 200 years of shoe making in Street.

The archivist Charlotte Berry gave members an insight into the history of this listed building, which had been used as a school, a midwifery school, a home for Basque refugees and a hospital during the Second World War before being used to house workers at the factory.

The company was started by brothers James

and Cyrus Clark with the first item made being a pair of sheepskin slippers. Members were able to see some old catalogues, sketches, books, etc. before entering a purpose-built building for housing all these artefacts. Shoes are kept in acid-free tissue paper and boxes after they have been photographed. A fantastic record for future generations. This is an on-going operation as more and more things come to light.

The ladies then had a couple of hours to have lunch or do some shopping before meeting at The Shoe Museum in the High Street where there was a guided tour with the curator, Dr. Pam Walker.

There are many glass show cases with hundreds of shoes from Roman times through to modern day. A most enjoyable day.

Open day at Corrymoor Socks



AWARD WINNING: Stephen and Jenny Whitley at Corrymoor Socks

CORRYMOOR Socks, near Stockland is holding an open weekend on November 1st and 2nd from 10am to 4pm each day.

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A fabulous range of cakes and good home cooked food are also on offer from the celebrated cooks and volunteers from the Stockland Village Hall fund raising team.

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Author supports children's Christmas charity

AWARD-winning Westcountry artist Laura Wall, author of the 'Goose' series of children's books, has boosted a Wellington charitable project to help vulnerable families at Christmas.

Ms Wall gifted signed copies of four of her Goose books to help raise funds for Project Wrapped Up 2014, run by Wellington mother-of-two Alice Burns.

The books became draw prizes when Project Wrapped Up attended a Somerset Pregnancy and Baby Fair held in Richard Huish College, Taunton.

They helped the project raise nearly £120 on the day, taking the total funds past £800, which is £300 more than the target set by Mrs Burns when she launched it at the beginning of the year.

Project Wrapped Up will use the money to purchase new toys so families facing severe financial pressures will be able to give Christmas presents to their children.

It is also making a financial donation to Wellington Toy Library, which lends out toys to local families.

The project has been collecting and selling pre-loved toys and children's clothing for the past eight months and is partnering the national charity Action for Children, which will distribute the new toys via a family centre in Wiltshire.

Mrs Burns said: "Laura Wall knows one of our committee members and when she heard about our work

she offered to sign some books and give them to us.

"We were thrilled she wanted to help us. They are lovely stories about an unusual friendship between a little girl called Sophie and a goose, which I knew about because I have read them to my two-year-old.

"We are now almost ready to start buying new toys in the next week or two so we can give them to Action for Children in good time for them to reach families for Christmas.

"The idea is that parents facing severe financial hardship can give the toys to their children, which will help take away some of the stresses which can build up at Christmas when there is not enough money to go round.

"I have been there myself, so I know how Christmas can be a challenging and distressing time for mums and dads whose children are asking for the things they see on television and other advertising, which is why I started Project Wrapped Up 2014."

Project Wrapped Up has been run Mrs Burns and her friends Clare Merchant, Karla Tadgell, Louise Harding, Laura Hardy, and Lynsey Wright - https://m.facebook.com/projectwrappedup?__user=517253274.

Anybody who wants to get in touch with Project Wrapped Up 2014 can email projectwrappedup2014@hotmail.co.uk.



PROJECT Wrapped Up 2014 members (left to right) Lynsey Wright, Alice Burns, and Laura Hardy with their stall at the Somerset Pregnancy and Baby Fair.

Harvest supper traditions continue



CLAYHIDON'S long tradition of harvest suppers continued in October, when 68 people sat down for a four-course meal with guest of honour, the Archdeacon of Exeter, the Venerable Christopher Fletcher.

It was a poignant night for the Blackmore family, who have been helping to run these suppers for more than 100 years. Margaret Blackmore retired after almost a lifetime's service. Michael Hudson

presented her with a gift from the Harvest Home Committee.

Dozens of guests signed a thank you card to Margaret, presented by Casey Blackmore, who is to continue the family tradition by taking her place on the committee.

Michael thanked Karen Pinder and her catering and waitressing team; Alex Hill, for generously providing Bollhayes cider and apple juice; Rumwell Farm Shop for giving a beautiful raffle prize and

Brenda Persey for organising the concert.

Brenda led the after-supper entertainment by playing the organ and the accordion, and the audience sang along with many old favourites. Ron White gave a hilarious explanation of the names of St Andrew's choir members.

And no harvest supper would be complete without Mike Reynolds singing Clayhidon on The Hill, as topical and relevant as ever.

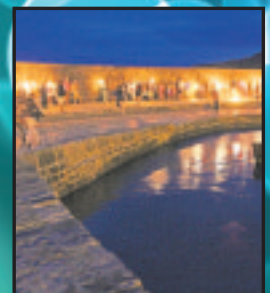
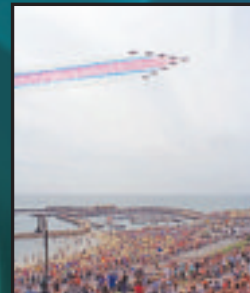
New thriller for Shute author



SHUTE-based author Paddy Magrane held a book signing session for his psychological thriller, *Disorder*, at Miller's Farm Shop in Kilmington. *Disorder* tells the story of a psychotherapist fighting for his life to discover the truth after his client, a Cabinet minister, is found dead. Paddy commented: "These days authors need to be a little inventive about how they market their work, so I'm really grateful to Miller's for helping me promote *Disorder*. "It was a great opportunity to meet new readers and talk about the book as well as the writing process." Young reader Harry Miller is photographed with Paddy.

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Consultation over Somerset library services

EXTENDING wi-fi and expanding the outreach services for those who cannot visit a library are just some of the proposals being put forward by Somerset County Council.

A paper went before Somerset County Council's Cabinet on October 22 exploring a range of new proposals, which would see no library buildings close but will make savings of almost £500,000.

The proposals will be going out for formal consultation at the beginning of this month where everyone will have a chance to comment before any decisions are made.

Proposals include seeing wi-fi installed in all libraries across the county, outreach services expanded for those who cannot visit a library, phasing out the lending of CDs, making changes to how the Performing Arts Library Service is delivered and introducing criteria for stops on

the mobile library route.

There have been no proposals put forward that would see any library buildings close or communities becoming responsible for the running of any libraries.

Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member with responsibility for libraries, said, "These proposals will enable us to provide a good quality library service, whilst potentially saving the council nearly £500,000. As the proposals show, there are still tough decisions to make, but I want to stress we have no plans to close any library buildings. These proposals will support us in keeping them open for all to enjoy."

The majority of proposals aim to have as little impact on frontline services as possible. A management restructuring will take place to ensure the service is well positioned to improve and encourage reading, improve health, improve access to information and increase digital usage take up.

A 10 week consultation begins on November 3rd where the public and key stakeholders will have their chance to comment on the proposals. A final decision on the way forward will be made in February 2015.

New digs for dogs

FERNE Animal Sanctuary are extremely grateful to supporters who have been pulling out all the stops to support their "New Digs for Dogs" campaign.

The Sanctuary launched their £1m project for 2014/15 in March this year to build a new enhanced kennel block, offices, reception and purpose built re-homing centre at their site in Wambrook, near Chard in Somerset.

Several local groups have organised fundraisers for the cause. Jenny Wheadon, Head of External Funding said: "Everyone at Ferne is incredibly grateful for all these donations towards our 'New Digs for Dogs' project. The generosity shown never ceases to amaze me and just goes to show how people really care about animals."

"Everyone who is donating is helping us get closer and closer to our goal, which is so exciting! The new re-homing centre is really taking shape now, so please, do come and visit us to see the progress."

Pack shoeboxes for Christmas again this year

FOR many years residents of the Upper Culm Valley have been donating Christmas Shoeboxes to charities to take to the under privileged in eastern Europe and this year is no exception.

Co-ordinator Janice Bawler said: "Thousands of boxes have left our area. People's generosity and kindness knows no bounds."

"The request is very simple - please fill a box with age related gifts, cover completely and very securely with festive paper, add a label saying whether for boy/girl along with age or man/woman/granny/grandad and deliver to 4 South View, Hemyock (tel 07773579809: email jbwaler1947@hotmail.co.uk) or collection can be arranged."

"Including a Christmas card and/or photo of your family is a nice idea, but no books with words or war related presents please."

The final date for boxes to be delivered to the above address is November 18th. They will then be taken to the Exeter charity Christian Response to Eastern Europe to ensure they are distributed to those who would otherwise get no gifts at Christmas.

To advertise in View from the Blackdowns contact Jemma Moore on 01297 446158 Send your news stories to lisa@pemedial.co.uk

Scouts sale raises over £1,500



FULL TO THE BRIM: Hemyock Parish Hall during the Scouts annual sale

FOR over 40 years Hemyock Scout Group have held an annual sale and traditionally supporters come from near and far forming a long queue which snakes its way around the Parish Hall.

This year was no exception with almost 100 people waiting for the doors to open.

On the hall car park there were large items from beds to bookcases, settees, tables and chairs. Under gazebos there was a huge selection of electrical

goods, while inside the hall was clothing, books, white elephant and nearly new stalls.

A cake stall, raffle and cream teas as well as a barbecue were also kept busy.

The sale is the main fundraising event for the group this year making a total of approximately £1,500.

Organisers would like to thank everybody who supported the sale.






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Shop in a lovely setting at the Blackdown Hills Market at Castle Green, Taunton

Local makers, crafters and food producers at new Blackdown Hill Market in Taunton

The New Blackdown Hills Market at Castle Green, Taunton, which runs every Friday and Saturday, is a great success", said Val Baker of the Blackdown Hills Business Association and organiser of the market.

The new market which was opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Taunton Deane in October has been well received by Taunton shoppers.

"We received lovely feedback from shoppers and have also received a lot of enquiries from local makers and producers wanting to join our market, so the market will definitely grow in the coming weeks!

"We are back again every Friday and Saturday. We are also doing some additional days and the Christmas Festival on Sunday, 23 November.

"There is a wealth of creative talent tucked away in the Blackdown Hills and Taunton area. We are delighted that local makers, crafters and food producers will be regularly attending our artisan market at Castle Green.

"They make tasty, beautiful and unique produce and products with passion and care.

"At our market you will find Conrads Kitchen, Kittow Cattle, Tricky Cider, Forest Beef, T&M Crafts, Woolly & Wild, Rather Splendid Cakes, Cheesy Bites, Dommet Hill Farm, Daisy Age, Blackdown Hills Lavender, Rather Splendid Cakes, JB Boards, Susie Smith, Biltong Company Ltd and Ellises Farm – serving hot street food.

"Dommet Hill Farm, Bloomberry Juice, Legglands Orchards and many more new businesses will be joining the market in a few weeks.

"If you want to know who is coming to each market check out the BHBA website at www.bhba.org.uk

and click on our Taunton Market page. You can like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

"We are delighted to be joined, every Saturday, by local performers - the Young Musical Theatre Company.

"Come along and taste delicious local pork, cider made to a traditional recipe from local fruit, jams like you have never tasted before, and honey from bees that forage our beautiful hedgerows and meadows.

"There will be jewellers, handbag makers, soap makers and highly-skilled wood makers. All these skills are alive and well in the Blackdown Hills and Taunton area, supported by the Blackdown Hills Business Association."

Ms Baker, the Business Co-ordinator for the Association, continued: "We are so fortunate to have this wealth of creative talent in this area. The Blackdown Hills Business Association is proud to showcase these businesses at Castle Green in Taunton, I am always amazed by the quality and range of businesses that make their living in our beautiful area.

"Why not make a day of it. Taunton has so much to offer. We look forward to seeing you there!"

For more information contact the Blackdown Hills Business Association: Blackdown Hills Business Association (BHBA), St Ivel House, Station Road, Hemyock, Cullompton EX15 3SJ Tel 01823 681484 or mobile 07711366885 info@bhba.org.uk or you can visit the Blackdown Hills Directory at www.blackdown-hills.co.uk. You will also find out more about us online at www.bhba.org.uk.

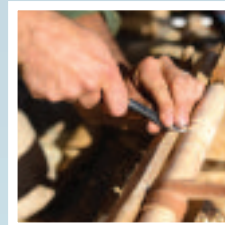
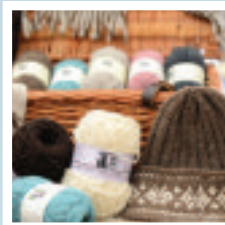
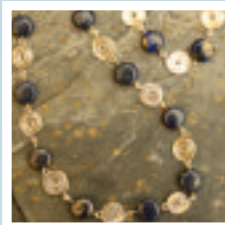
The BHBA is grateful for the support of Taunton Deane Borough Council and is proud to be supporting Make Taunton Sparkle and the Young Musical Theatre Company.

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Begins Saturday 4 October 2014

what's on

in and around the Blackdown Hills

Food for thought at Sheldon

BENEATH the Albion Sky - at Sheldon Village Hall, near Dunkeswell, takes place on Wednesday, November 12th.

This is a walking story about our relationship with England's past, the landscape around us and the things our imaginations do to cope with loss.

This is a one-man theatre production which has been developed by the writing theatre company Write By Numbers and supported by Villages in Action.

Mixing travelogue with historical fact (and fantasy), the show arrives in Sheldon via London and Bristol and afterwards there will be an opportunity to ask questions about the production.

It is suitable for ages 11 and above. Tickets will be available at £8 for adults, £5 for school age, with a discount rate for families (two adults and two children).

Contact John Carr on 01404 841367 or Grace Martin at graceindevon@gmail.com.



Ange Hardy and Steve Pledger

**Wednesday 26 November 2014
(postponed from 10 November)**

AN evening of intimate award winning acoustic music, sitting at a candle-lit table with a glass of wine or a pint of good beer at Clayhidon Parish Hall.

Steve's writing ranges from fragile reflections on love and loss to blistering commentaries on present circumstances, while Ange sings songs of heritage, stories of working the land and tales deeply rooted in the traditions of rural life.

ries of working the land and tales deeply rooted in the traditions of rural life.

In January 2014 Ange Hardy was awarded FATEA Magazine's "Female Vocalist of the Year", and the year so far has seen her receiving airplay from both BBC Radio 2 and The Mike Harding Folk Show.

Her new album "The Lament of The Black Sheep" was made Iain Anderson's album of the week on BBC Scotland.



Ange Hardy and Steve Pledger

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Mike Denham

Jazz at the Tuckers

THE Tuckers Jazz evenings have started again with some marvellous musicians and singers lined up.

All events take place on Saturday in the Tuckers Arms, Dalwood, and start at 8 pm. For all the latest information please see www.dalwoodvillage.co.uk/tuckers-jazz-club.php.

On Saturday, November 8th, Mike Denham pianist and raconteur will present "Jelly Roll to Rock'n'Roll" and will be a mix of ragtime, jazz, boogie-woogie and blues.

Tickets are £6. Phone Tina 01404 831 280 or Kathy 01404 881 601.

On Saturday, December 13th, Roger Marks' "Brass Farthings" play good ol' Trad Jazz featuring souzaphone with Roger on trombone, Graham Trevarton - trumpet, Pete Sumner - banjo and Tony Mann - souzaphone.

● **Wambrook Christmas Fair** offers and selection of gifts for friends and family on Saturday November 8th at the Tithe Barn, Cotley from 10am to 2.30pm. Local artisans and small selected companies will be offering a range of products to inspire you for the festive season. There will also be refreshments, a raffle and tombola.

● **Stockland Book Group** are currently reading "Unexploded" by Alison Macleod. This is set in the summer of 1940 in Brighton and is about the mysteries of love's uncertainty during a time of crisis.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 18th, at 8 pm in the Tuckers Arms in Dalwood. Some spare copies are available - contact Wendy 01404881207 or Jane 01404831207.

● **Carols Under the Stars** Experience the magic of the Blackdown Hills at night-time and join in with Christmas music under the stars at Wellington Monument on Friday, December 5th.

A special chance for the whole family to experience the approach to the Monument lit with torches and to join in with favourite carols with the Blackdown Community Choir in a unique location. Mince pies and drinks will be on sale from Smeatharpe WI. Limited parking in the National Trust car park at Wellington Monument.

● **Make Your Own Rudolph** from living wood to a rustic wooden Rudolph (stands about 30cm high). Maximum 6 people. Full step-by-step tuition provided, using simple tools in a heated workshop. Wellies required for harvesting the wood. Cost: £40, to include a home-cooked lunch. Booking essential, at Seville's Croft, Hemyock, EX15 3QX 10am-4pm. For more information: Contact Richard and Alison Whiteside, 01823 680931.

Who will be Brain of the Blackdowns?

TEST your general knowledge against Clayhidon's quizzers in a fact-packed evening of fun at Clayhidon Parish Hall. The quiz takes place on November 14th at 7.30pm for £3 per person including refreshments.

You can enter a team of up to four or the organisers will help you join another team. For more information or to register a team contact Caroline Bendle on 01823 681047 or email carouselle@btinternet.com

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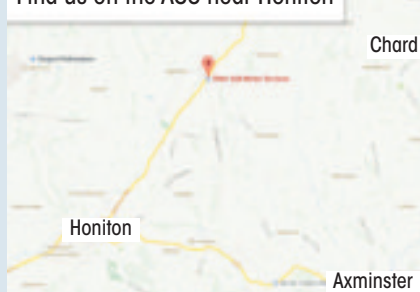
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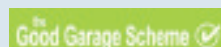


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Spacious coach house with an unusual layout situated in village centre. Hallway, large kitchen/dining room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sitting room. Parking, outside storage, communal courtyard. ENSH. Children considered. Available end October. EPC band E. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 34106

£675 pcm**Honiton 01404 42553****NEW**

Angersleigh

A superb unfurnished 4 bedroom barn conversion at the foot hills of the Blackdowns with paddock and annexe. To let on a long term let. Large garden, ample parking and single garage. O.F.C.H. EPC Band D. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 62012

£1,900pcm**Taunton 01823 447355**

Dunkeswell

Well presented attached annexe situated in a beautifully idyllic position. Sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, 2 double bedrooms & bathroom. Parking & patio. Use of large gardens & tennis courts. Available mid September. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 67979

£800 pcm**Honiton 01404 42553****NEW**

Nr Wellington

An individually designed 3 bedroom detached unfurnished bungalow set in wonderful parkland style grounds of approximately 1.84 acres. Six Month Assured Shorthold Tenancy. EPC Band G. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 68657

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Offwell

Character 3 bedroom detached cottage in quiet rural location. Sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen, bathroom. Partial heating, gardens, garage. Pets/children considered. Available immediately. EPC band G. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 34340

£750 pcm**Honiton 01404 42553****NEW**

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NEW

Clayhidon 2.75 Acres

A recently refurbished and extended country house with outbuildings and land of approximately 2.75 acres. Sitting room, kitchen/dining room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, double garage, workshop/studio, garden & field. EPC Band F. Web Find: 54690
Guide £675,000 Wellington 01823 662822



NEW

Membury

An attached Grade II Listed 4 bedroom property believed to date from the 16th century. Separate detached 1 bedroom annexe/cottage and useful outbuildings including 2 storey stone barn. Established gardens with views to church. Web Find: 65009
Guide £575,000 Honiton 01404 45885



NEW

Nr Culmstock

8.5 Acres

A fine six bedroom country house together with a courtyard of outbuildings including extensive garaging, office and substantial barn with potential all set within attractive private grounds with adjoining paddocks extending to approximately 8.5 acres. Hall, Cloakroom, 3 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, 6 Bedrooms and 4 Bathrooms. EPC Band E. Web Find: 69666

Guide £1,200,000

Wellington 01823 662822



Stockland Hill 0.5 Acres

An individual detached 4 bedroom home with adjoining 1 bed annexe in half an acre of completely private gardens, double garage and parking. Situated over 800 feet above sea level with breathtaking countryside views across Devon and Dorset. EPC Band D. Web Find: 66472
Guide £550,000 Honiton 01404 45885



Blackmoor 0.9 Acres

An individual split level four/five bedroom detached country house enjoying spectacular views across Taunton Vale. Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, WC, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Utility, 4 Bedrooms (1 En Suite) Study and Family Bathroom. EPC Band D. Web Find: 68478
Guide £499,500 Wellington 01823 662822



NEW

Nicholashayne

A delightful 4 bedroom country cottage along with green oak barn set within attractive grounds. Kitchen/Dining Room, Sitting Room, Hall, Utility, 4 Bedrooms (1 En Suite) and Family Bathroom. Web Find: 70069
Guide £420,000 Wellington 01823 662822



Nr Yacombe

A well presented individual attached barn conversion with rural views. 3 Bedrooms (master en suite), farmhouse style kitchen, 2 reception rooms and conservatory. Attached double garage. Stunning gardens. EPC Band D. Web Find: 57406
Guide £399,500 Honiton 01404 45885



Beacon

A split level 2 bedroom property designed to take full advantage of the breathtaking views to the front. Sitting in an elevated position commanding stunning views across the countryside in a rural hamlet. EPC Band D. Web Find: 48391
Guide £299,950 Honiton 01404 45885

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